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**To:** [Career Deputy Assistant Administrators](#); [Leadership Deputy Associate Administrators](#); [Leadership Assistant Administrators](#); [Leadership Regional Administrators](#); [Leadership Deputy Regional Administrators](#); [Leadership Associate Administrators](#); [Leadership Deputy Assistant Administrators](#); [Deputy Regional Counsels](#); [Regional Counsels](#); [Regional FOIA Officers](#); [FOIA-Coordinators-Officers-Alternates-and-Supervisors](#); [EPA FOIA Community](#)  
**Cc:** [Chaudhary, Dimple](#); [Hope, Brian](#); [Joffe, Brian](#); [QGC NFO](#); [Vendinello, Lynn](#); [Gross, Louann](#); [Wachter, Eric](#); [Weaver, Susannah](#)  
**Subject:** May 2022 EPA FOIA Backlog Report  
**Date:** Friday, June 3, 2022 10:51:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [image004.png](#)

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Dear Colleagues,

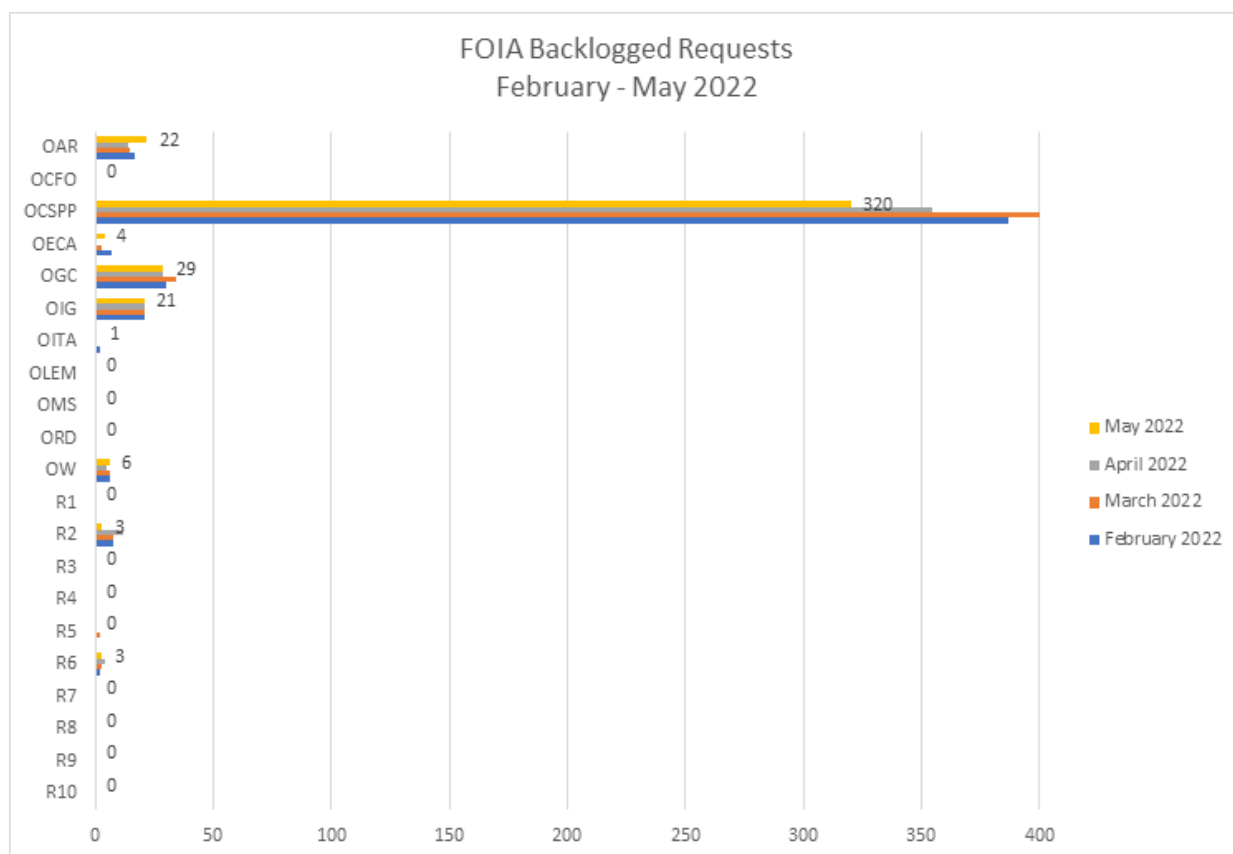
The Agency's backlog of overdue FOIA requests went down significantly in May. This is the second one-month significant reduction this fiscal year, and the backlog has finally dropped lower than it was at the beginning of the fiscal year. The backlog at the end of May decreased to 1,042 as compared to 1,072 at the end of April. The end of May backlog is now lower than the backlog of 1,056 at the beginning of the fiscal year.

**Congratulations to OCSPP for a two month significant backlog reduction in April and May of 84, or more than 20% as compared to two months ago!**

**The following offices achieved a zero backlog at the end of April: OCFO, OMS, OLEM, ORD and Regions 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10. The following additional offices also maintained very low backlog numbers: Regions 2 and 6, OITA and OECA. Congratulations to Region 2 for achieving a very low backlog level for the first time.** Maintaining a zero backlog and very low backlog numbers is essential for the Agency to achieve its overall commitment to transparency and the objective to eliminate the FOIA backlog.

#### **End of May Overdue FOIA Data**

The chart below shows the number of overdue FOIA requests in EPA headquarters program offices and the regions at the end of the most recent four months: May, April, March, and February 2022. The Office of the Administrator's backlog increased to 633 at the end of May from 629 at the end of April.



For this report, overdue FOIA request is defined as a FOIA request pending for more than 20 working days as of the end of the month or beyond an applicable due date extension that has been documented in FOIAonline (by agreement, proper notice of unusual circumstances, or notice of clock stoppage for clarification or fee assurances that is recorded as a due date extension). Please note that this definition of the backlog is different from the definition required for the Agency's annual report to the Department of Justice, which does not take into account unusual circumstances extensions beyond 10 days or other statutorily authorized due date extensions documented in the FOIAonline tracking system.

The February data in this report was generated from FOIAonline on March 1, 2022; the March data on April 1, 2022; the April data on May 4; and the May data on June 1. If you would like to discuss the data, what additional data you would like to see reported, or to discuss ideas on how we can more rapidly reduce the Agency's FOIA backlog and more effectively meet the Agency's FOIA responsibility, please contact me at [epp.timothy@epa.gov](mailto:epp.timothy@epa.gov) or at (202) 564-2830.

Tim

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